

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 009257

CODEL WOLFF

C O R R E C T E D COPY (CAP LINES OMITTED)

MEXICO FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA:

LA PAZ FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE:

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 145 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 13 JAN

QTE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM CONGRESSMAN LESTER L.

WOLFF, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS

CONTROL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF STATEMENT MADE BY CONGRESSMAN
GILMAN AND MYSELF AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION AT PREEISDENTIAL

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PALACE ENDING IN AN AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF

MEXICO TO SET UP A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP A
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND YOURSELF AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE UPON OUR RETURN TO DISCUSS DETAILS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM. WE WILL BE RETURNING
TO WASHINGTON ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18.

39 OUR PROMPT ATTENTION IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RESPOND
TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE IN FORMULATING PRE-
LIMINARY GUIDELINES WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS. STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
(BEGIN STATEMENT)

JOINT STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER L. WOLFF AND CONGRESS-
MAN BENJAMIN A. GILMAN AT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LUIS
ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO, JANUARY 10, 1976.

THE SPIRALING INCIDENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE UNITED STATES AND
THE DEEP CONCERN OF PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND THE U.S. CONGRESS
IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM HAS PROMPTED OUR
VISIT TO YOUR GREAT NATION.

PRESIDENT FORD, THREE WEEKS AGO, CALLED A MEETING OF A
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE TO PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE MEXICAN-
UNITED STATES INTEREST IN ATTACKING THIS CANCER WHICH THREATENS
THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF THE YOUTH OF OUR NATIONS.

WE ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CREATIVE PROPOSAL BY
PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA IN ESTABLISHING FOR THE FIRST TIME
A FIRMAL ORGANIZATION THAT WILL COORDINATE THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM
OF THE NARCOTIC REGULATORY, EDUCATIONAL, REHABILITATIVE AND
INFORMATIONAL AGENCIES WHICH ARE REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT,
ALONG WITH THEIR UNITED STATES COUNTERPARTS.

THE PROPOSAL INITIATED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AND CONTRIBUTED
TO BY UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR JOVA AND MEXICO'S ATTORNEY
GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA, WOULD ESTABLISH A PERMANENT COMMISSION
TO BRING ABOUT EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF ALL DRUG ABUSE
RELATED ACTIVITIES.

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THE SUCCESS OF OUR JOINT ENDEAVORS WILL BE MEASURED IN RESULTS
RATHER THAN RHETORIC, DERIVED ONLY FROM THE ELIMINATION OF
ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AND, ULTIMATELY,
THE ERADICATION OF DRUG ABUSE BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

SEEKING TO OVERCOME THE MENACE OF NARCOTIC TRAFFIC THAT
CONFRONTS OUR TWO NATIONS, MY COLLEAGUE, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN,

A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONE COMMITTEE, AND I, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTIC CONTROL COMMITTEE, HAVE UNDERTAKEN THIS VITAL MISSION
OF EXCHANGING IDEAS, VIEWS AND INDORMATION WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS
OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

IN OUR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HE HAS DEMONSTRATED
HIS LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE SUPPORT AND CONCERN IN FINDING A
PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THIS DREADFUL PROBLEM CONFRONTING BOTH
OF OUR NATIONS.

TTIS MEETING THIS EVENING IS A CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF
CONFERENCES WE HAVE ENGAGED IN AT ALL LEVELS OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, MANY OF WHICH ARE REPRESENTED IN
THIS ROOM TONIGHT.

BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, THE CREATION
OF THIS JOINT COMMISSION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WITH ALL POSSIBLE
SPEED. THIS IS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN.

OY COLLEAGUE, MR. GILMAN, AND I WILL BE TAKING BACK A PERSONAL
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO PRESIDENT FORD AND TO THE
U.S. CONGRESS. THE PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,
AND ALL OF US HERE TONIGHT, THAT THIS PROPOSED JOINT
COMMISSION BECOME A REALITY, WE CONSIDER A PRIME MISSION.
MR. GILMAN AND I WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD UPON OUR
RETURN TO HELP IMPLEMENT OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE.

MR. PRESIDENT,WE THANK YOU FOR THE COOPERATION
EXTENDED TO US BY YOUR OFFICIALS
AND AGENCIES IN
MAKING THIS A PRODUCTIVE, MOMENTOUS MISSION, WITH A
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WORD OF THANKS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL WHOSE STAFFS HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE.

MY FRIENDS - WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE - BECAUSE
WITH OUT EFFORTS UNITED, WE CANNOT FAIL. (END STATEMENT).
TODMAN UNQTE KISSINGER

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